

ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus for moderating packet ingress interrupts. A network interface includes a packet timer and an absolute timer or absolute counter. The packet timer functions to minimize packet latency during periods of low packet ingress at the network interface. Each of the absolute timer and absolute counter functions to minimize CPU load and packet latency during periods of high packet ingress at the network interface.

09967300 "092701
T02250" 00529550